Case 2:21-cv-02460 Document 1 Filed 05/28/21 Page 1 of 34 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	ocket sheet. (SEE HVSTROC.	HONS ON NEAT FAGE OF TH	DEFENDANTS			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintig	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) PT Citizen of This State	TF DEF 1		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2		
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ely) PRTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES	
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
□ 1 Original □ 2 Re	moved from 3 tte Court Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	Appellate Court			rict	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: VIII. RELATED CASI	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint:	
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTOR	NEY OF RECORD			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # Al	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)

- **III. Residence** (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

MARK LAWSON : CIVIL ACTION

:

v. :

NO.

CVS PHARMACY, INC. d/b/a

CVS PHARMACY, PHILADELPHIA

PA CVS, INC., and :

PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.

(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.

(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.

(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.

(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)

(f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

May 28, 2021 Joel H. Feigenbaum, Esquire

Date Attorney-at-law

Attorney for Defendants

(215) 587-1138 Telephone (215) 320-4765 FAX Number

E-Mail Address: jfeigenbaum@postschell.com

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual

stockholder's stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

Case 2:21-cv-02460NITDO SUATES DISTRICTO DISTRICTO PAGE 6 of 34 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

	s of Plaintiff:				
Addres	s of Defendant:				
Place o	f Accident, Incident or Transaction:				
RELAT	TED CASE, IF ANY:				
Case Nu	ımber: Judge:			Date Terminated:	
Civil ca	ses are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following	g question	S:		
	this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit perviously terminated action in this court?	nding or wi	thin one year	Yes	No 🗆
	es this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same anding or within one year previously terminated action in this court?	ransaction	as a prior suit	Yes	No 🗆
	es this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already mbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action			Yes 🔲	No 🔲
	this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeare filed by the same individual?	al, or pro so	e civil rights	Yes	No 🗆
	that, to my knowledge, the within case \square is $/ \square$ is not related rt except as noted above.	l to any cas	e now pending or v	vithin one year previ	iously terminated action in
	Joel H. Feigenba	um			
DITIE.	Attorney-at-L	aw / Pro Se	Plaintiff	Attorne	ey I.D. # (if applicable)
CIVIL:	(Place a √ in one category only)				
CIVIL:	(Place a √ in one category only) Federal Question Cases:	B. Di	versity Jurisdiction C	Cases:	
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POST & SCHELL, P.C.

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FOUR PENN CENTER, 13TH FLOOR

1600 JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD.

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2808

215-587-1000

MARK LAWSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

CVS PHARMACY, INC. d/b/a CVS PHARMACY, PHILADELPHIA CVS, INC., and PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST,

Defendants.

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS, PENNSYLVANIA CVS PHARMACY, L.L.C. (I/P/A AS CVS PHARMACY, INC. D/B/A CVS PHARMACYAND PHILADELPHIA PA CVS, INC.) AND PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

No.

DEFENDANTS, PENNSYLVANIA CVS PHARMACY, L.L.C. (I/P/A AS CVS PHARMACY, INC. D/B/A CVS PHARMACYAND PHILADELPHIA PA CVS, INC.) AND PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST'S PETITION FOR REMOVAL PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C.§1332 AND U.S.C.§1441

Defendants, Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. (i/p/a CVS Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a CVS Pharmacy and Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc.) and Philadelphia PA Business Trust, by and through its attorneys, Post & Schell, P.C., hereby petitions to remove the above-captioned action, which is presently in the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, No. 210401995, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332 and 28 U.S.C. §1441 *et seq.*, and in support thereof, avers as follows:

I. NATURE OF ACTION

- 1. This action arises out of an alleged trip and fall accident that occurred on April 30, 2019 in the parking lot of a CVS store located in Philadelphia, PA. See a true and correct copy of Plaintiff's Complaint attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 2. Plaintiff is a resident of Pennsylvania with an address of 1446 West 70th Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19126. <u>Id</u>. at ¶1.
- 3. CVS Pharmacy, Inc. is a foreign corporation with a principal place of business located at One CVS Drive, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895. <u>Id</u>.¹
- 4. Defendant, Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. is a Pennsylvania limited liability company with a business address of 6344 Senton Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

 See Affidavit of Melanie K. St Angelo attached hereto as Exhibit "C."
- The sole member of Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. is CVS Pharmacy, Inc.
 Id.
- 6. Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business located at 7850 NW 146th Street, 4th Floor, Miami Lakes, Florida 33016.²

2

¹ The Pennsylvania Department of State confirms that Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc. is no longer an active corporation as it merged with CVS Pharmacy, Inc. – which maintains the business address identified by Plaintiff in his Complaint – in 1999. <u>See</u> a true an accurate copy of the Business Entity Details attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

² Plaintiff's Complaint incorrectly identifies Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust's address as 6344 Senton Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the address of the CVS store. See Exhibit "A". The Pennsylvania Department of State confirms that Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust is a foreign corporation. The lease between Philadelphia PA Business Trust and Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, LLC, which was controlling at the time and for the premises where Plaintiff allegedly fell, confirms Philadelphia PA Business Trust is a Delaware busines trust with a principal business address in Miami Lakes, Florida. See a true and accurate copy of the Business Entity Details and a redacted copy of the Lease attached hereto as Exhibit "D".

- 7. Plaintiff alleges to have suffered "painful and severe injuries, which include, but are not limited to, disc herniation at T12-L1, disc bulge at L4-5, right knee internal derangement, lower extremity radiculopathies, cervical sprain and strain, lumbar strain and strain, right hip sprain and strain, and lower back sprain and strain." Plaintiff also alleges to have incurred, *inter alia*, medical expenses and financial expenses, loss of earnings and impairment of earning power and capacity and claims to be prevented from performing his usual customary activities. See Exhibit "A" at ¶8-10.
- 8. Pursuant to Pennsylvania pleading rules, Plaintiff has also asserted that the alleged damages are in excess of the \$50,000 jurisdictional limits of a Board of Arbitrators. See Exhibit "A."

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- 9. On April 22, 2021 Plaintiff filed a Complaint in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. See Exhibit "A".
- 10. The Complaint was served on Defendant, Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. on April 30, 2021. See Certified Mail tracking information within Exhibit "A"; USPS Tracking History for Confirmation # 770191120000127947780.
- 11. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(B), Defendant shall have thirty (30) days after service of the Complaint May 30, 2021 to file a notice of removal.
- 12. This notice of removal, and related papers, has been filed within thirty (30) days of the date of service of the Complaint on Defendants and is, therefore, timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

III. <u>LEGAL ARGUMENT</u>

A. THE ADVERSE PARTIES ARE COMPLETELY DIVERSE

- 13. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, a matter may be removed to Federal Court based upon the diversity of citizenship of the parties.
- 14. Complete diversity of citizenship between the parties exists when "every plaintiff [is] of diverse state citizenship from every defendant." <u>In re Briscoe</u>, 448 F.3d 201, 215 (3d Cir. 2006).
- 15. A corporation is considered to be a citizen of its state of incorporation and the state where it has its principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c).
- 16. Under the "nerve center" test adopted by the United States Supreme Court, a corporation's principal place of business is the headquarters of the corporation, *i.e.* that "place where a corporation's officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation's activities." Hertz Corp. v. Friend, 559 U.S. 77, 92-93 (2010).
- 17. In addition, "the citizenship of an LLC is determined by the citizenship of each of its members." Zambelli Fireworks Mfg. Co. v. Wood, 592 F.3d 412, 418 (3d Cir. 2010).
 - 18. As stated above, as well as in the Complaint, Plaintiff is a resident of Pennsylvania.
- 19. The citizenship of CVS Pharmacy, Inc. (and Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc., which is an inactive merged corporation with CVS Pharmacy, Inc.) is Rhode Island. <u>See</u> Exhibits "B-C".
- 20. Defendant, Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C.'s sole member is CVS Pharmacy, Inc. As the sole member of the LLC, the citizenship of CVS Pharmacy, Inc. (Rhode Island) is used to determine the citizenship of Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C.
- 21. The citizenship of Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust is Delaware. <u>See</u> Exhibit "D".

22. As a result, there is complete diversity of citizenship between the Plaintiff (Pennsylvania) and Defendants (Rhode Island and Delaware).

B. THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY EXCEEDS \$75,000

- 23. Under 28 U.S.C. §1332(a), federal jurisdiction based on diversity of citizenship requires that the amount in controversy exceed \$75,000.
- 24. The amount in controversy is measured by the pecuniary value of the rights being litigated. Hunt v. Washington Apple Advertising Commission, 432 U.S. 333, 347, 53 L. Ed. 2d 383, 97 S. Ct. 2434 (1977).
- 25. "The amount in controversy is <u>not</u> measured by the low end of an open-ended claim, but rather by a reasonable reading of the value of the rights being litigated." <u>Angus v. Shiley, Inc.</u>, 989 F.2d 142, 146 (3d Cir. 1993), citing <u>Hunt v. Washington State Apple Advertising Comm'n.</u>, 432 U.S. 333, 347 (1977)[emphasis added].
- 26. The Court must find that the amount in controversy requirement has been satisfied when a reasonable jury could value the plaintiff's losses at an amount above the jurisdictional minimum. Id.; see also Corwin Jeep Sales & Service v. American Motors Sales Corp., 670 F. Supp. 591, 596 (M.D. Pa. 1986)(finding amount in controversy requirement met when the court could not "find to a legal certainty that the parties' respective rights under the franchise agreement are worth less than the jurisdictional minimum.").
- 27. In this case, Plaintiff alleges to have suffered "painful and severe injuries, which include, but are not limited to, disc herniation at T12-L1, disc bulge at L4-5, right knee internal derangement, lower extremity radiculopathies, cervical sprain and strain, lumbar strain and strain, right hip sprain and strain, and lower back sprain and strain." Plaintiff also alleges to have incurred, *inter alia*, medical expenses and financial expenses, loss of earnings and impairment of

earning power and capacity and claims to be prevented from performing his usual customary

activities. See Exhibit "A" at ¶¶8-10.

28. While Defendant disputes Plaintiff's allegations, considering the damages

claimed by Plaintiff, if taken to be true, a reasonable jury could value Plaintiff's losses at an

amount in excess of the \$75,000 amount in controversy minimum.

IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

29. Therefore, with both the existence of diversity of citizenship between the parties

and the amount in controversy threshold having been satisfied, removal is proper under 28

U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441.

WHEREFORE, Defendants, Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. (i/p/a CVS

Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a CVS Pharmacy and Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc.) and Philadelphia PA

Business Trust, respectfully requests that this Honorable Court find this case to have been

properly removed and assume full jurisdiction of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

POST & SCHELL, P.C.

BY:

DATED: May 27, 2021

CHARLES W. SPITZ, ESQUIRE

JOEL H. FEIGENBAUM, ESQUIRE

Attorneys for DEFENDANT,

PENNSYLVANIA CVS PHARMACY, L.L.C.

(i/p/a CVS Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a CVS Pharmacy

and Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc.) and

PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

JOEL H. FEIGENBAUM, ESQUIRE hereby states that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Petition for Removal to be electronically filed with the Court and served electronically by the Court upon counsel of record in addition to being sent by electronic mail to jsolnick@solnicklawyers.com.

POST & SCHELL, P.C.

BY:

DATED: May 27, 2021

CHARLES W. SPITZ, ESQUIRE
JOEL H. FEIGENBAUM, ESQUIRE
Attorneys for DEFENDANT,
PENNSYLVANIA CVS PHARMACY, L.L.C.
(i/p/a CVS Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a CVS Pharmacy
and Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc.)
and PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST

EXHIBIT A



JAY L. SOLNICK | Partner jsolnick@solnicklawyers.com

April 23, 2021

Via Certified Mail
Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc.
One CVS Drive
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Re: Mark Lawson v. CVS Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a CVS Pharmacy, et al

Philadelphia CCP; April Term 2021 No. 1995

Our File No. 1905007

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed please find a copy of a Complaint that has been filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, which identifies you as a Defendant. This Complaint is being served on you pursuant to Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 403 and 404. I suggest that you turn these papers over to your insurance carrier upon receipt.

Very truly yours,

JAY L. SOLNICK

Enclosures

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County Trial Division

Civil Cover Sheet

For Prothonotary Use Only (Docket Number)

APRIL 2021

	Cover Sheet	E-Filing Number: 2	104044229	001995
PLAINTIFF'S NAME MARK LAWSON		DEFENDANT'S NAM		
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PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 1446 WEST 70TH AVEN	iie	DEFENDANT'S ADDR	DECC	
PHILADELPHIA PA 19	126	6344 STENT PHILADELPF	TON AVEUNE	
PLAINTIFF'S NAME		DESENDANTIO		
		DEFENDANT'S NAME PHILADELPH	IIA PA CVS, INC.	
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		DEFENDANT'S ADDR	EGP	
		ONE CVS DR WOONSCOKET	IVE	
PLAINTIFF'S NAME				
		DEFENDANT'S NAME PHILADELPH	IA PA BUSINESS TRUST	
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		DEFENDANT'S ADDRE		
		6344 STENT	SS ON AVEUNE IA PA 19138	
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	on behalf of Plaintiff/Petitioner/A			
pers may be served at the ac	idress set forth below.	Appellant: MARK LA	<u>NSON</u>	
ME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APP	FILANT'S ATTORNEY			
AY L. SOLNICK	PERMIT S AT TURNEY	ADDRESS	CCOCTAMBO	
DNE NUMBER		1448 MUNDOCE	SSOCIATES, LLC	
215)481-9979	FAX NUMBER (215) 481-9980	DRESHER PA 1	.9025	
REME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO.				
4109		jsolnick@sol	nicklawyers.com	
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SOLNICK & ASSOCIATES, LLC
BY: JAY L. SOLNICK, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY I.D. NO. 74109
BY: ALISA THAMMAVONG, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY I.D. NO. 327690
THE PAVILION, SUITE 718
261 OLD YORK ROAD
JENKINTOWN, PA 19046
215-481-9979
isolnick@solnicklawyers.com
athammavong@solnicklawyers.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIEF Attested by the Office of Judicial Records

22 APR 2021 04:11 pm

AN ASSESSMENT OF DAM AG STRICE
HEARING IS REQUIRED.

MARK LAWSON	
1446 West 70th Avenue	
Philadelphia, PA 19126	

Plaintiff

CVS PHARMACY, INC. d/b/a CVS PHARMACY 6344 Stenton Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19138

and

PHILADELPHIA PA CVS, INC.

One CVS Drive

Woonsocket, RI 02895

and

PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST 6344 Stenton Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19138

Defendants

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

TERM, 2021

NO. ____

<u>COMPLAINT - CIVIL ACTION</u> 20 - OTHER PERSONAL INJURY

"NOTICE'

"AVISO"

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION Lawyer Referral and Information Service One Reading Center Philadelphia, PA 19107 Phone: (215) 238-1701 Le han demandado a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las paginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) dias de plazo al partir de la fecha de la demanda y la notificacion hace falta asentar una comparencia escrita en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objectiones a las demandes en contra a de su persona. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende la corte tomara medidas y puede continuar las demanda en contra suya sin previo aviso o notificacion. Ademas la corte puedo decidir a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla as las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puedo dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted.

LLEVE ESTÁ DEMANDA A UN ABOGADO IMMEDIATAMENTE. SI NO TIENE ABOGADO O SI NO TIENE EL DINERO SUFICIENTE DE PAGAR TAL SERVICIO, VAYA EN PERSONA O LLAME POR TELEFONO A LA OFICINA CUYA DIRECCION SE ENCUENTRA ESCRITA ABAJO PARA AVERIGUAR DONDE SE PUEDE CONSEGUIR ASISTENCIA LEGAL.

ASSOCIACION DE LICENDIADOS DE FILADELFIA Servicio De Refencia E Informacion Legal One Reading Center Filadelfía, Pennsylvania 19107 Telefono: (215) 238-1701

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

SOLNICK &ASSOCIATES, LLC BY: JAY L. SOLNICK, ESQUIRE THIS IS AN ARBITRATION CASE. ATTORNEY I.D. NO. 74109 BY: ALISA THAMMAVONG, ESQUIRE AN ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES **ATTORNEY I.D. NO. 327690 HEARING IS REQUIRED.** THE PAVILION, SUITE 718 261 OLD YORK ROAD JENKINTOWN, PA 19046 215-481-9979 jsolnick@solnicklawyers.com athammavong@solnicklawyers.com MARK LAWSON **COURT OF COMMON PLEAS** 1446 West 70th Avenue PHILADELPHIA COUNTY Philadelphia, PA 19126 **Plaintiff** TERM, 2021 CVS PHARMACY, INC. d/b/a **CVS PHARMACY** NO. 6344 Stenton Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19138 and PHILADELPHIA PA CVS, INC. **One CVS Drive** Woonsocket, RI 02895 and PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST 6344 Stenton Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19138 Defendants

<u>COMPLAINT - CIVIL ACTION</u> <u>20 - OTHER PERSONAL INJURY</u>

- 1. Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, is an adult individual who resides at the address indicated in the above caption.
- 2. Defendant, CVS Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a CVS Pharmacy ("CVS"), is a business entity which is, upon information and belief, licensed and authorized to conduct business in the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a place of business at the address indicated in the above caption.

- 3. Defendant, Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc., is a business entity which is, upon information and belief, licensed and authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with headquarters and/or a principal place of business at the address indicated in the above caption.
- 4. Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust, is a business entity which is, upon information and belief, licensed and authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a place of business at the address indicated in the above caption.
- 5. At all times material hereto, Defendants, CVS, Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc. and/or Philadelphia PA Business Trust owned, operated, possessed, controlled, maintained, supervised, leased, managed, and/or were otherwise responsible for a retail establishment/pharmacy and the property located at 6344 Stenton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania including, in particular, the parking lot area (hereinafter "the Premises).
- 6. Any acts or omissions alleged herein to have been committed or omitted by Defendants were committed or omitted by and through Defendants' respective agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors acting within the course and scope of their employment and/or authority for and on behalf of Defendants.
- 7. On April 30, 2019, at approximately 9:00 p.m., Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, was a business invitee lawfully when he was caused to trip and fall after stepping into a "pothole" in the parking lot of the Premises which represented a dangerous and defective condition.
- 8. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing incident and Defendant's negligence and carelessness, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, sustained painful and severe injuries which

include, but are not limited to, disc herniation at T12-L1, disc bulge at L4-L5, right knee internal derangement, lower extremity radiculopathies, cervical sprain and strain, lumbar sprain and strain, right hip sprain and strain, and lower back sprain and strain.

- 9. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing incident and Defendant's negligence and carelessness, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, has suffered great physical pain and mental suffering, emotional distress, inconvenience in carrying out his daily activities, a loss of life's pleasures and enjoyment, a loss of earnings and earning capacity, and he may suffer pain and inconvenience into the future.
- 10. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing incident and Defendant's negligence and carelessness, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, has been compelled to undergo otherwise unnecessary medical treatment and to incur miscellaneous medical expenses in an effort to restore himself to health and he may be forced to incur additional medical expenses in the future.
- 11. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing incident and Defendant's negligence and carelessness, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, continues to suffer pain and limitation and, therefore, avers that his injuries may be of a permanent nature, causing residual problems into the future.

<u>COUNT I - NEGLIGENCE</u> PLAINTIFF, MARK LAWSON, v. DEFENDANT, CVS

- 12. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the averments of Paragraph 1 through 11 of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length.
- 13. The foregoing incident and all of the injuries and damages set forth herein sustained by Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, were the direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendant, CVS, as follows:
 - a. Failing to maintain the Premises in a safe condition;

- b. Failing to take adequate precautions to assure that individuals lawfully on the Premises would not be subject to injury;
- c. Failing to warn pedestrians and those lawfully on the Premises of the dangerous and defective condition existing on the Premises;
- d. Failing to exercise due care to protect Plaintiff and others similarly situated from personal injuries caused by the dangerous and defective condition on the Premises;
- e. Failing to properly and adequately inspect and supervise the Premises in order to locate and correct dangerous and defective conditions such as that which caused injury to Plaintiff;
- f. Failing to correct the dangerous and defective condition of the Premises;
- g. Failing to assure that the Premises were designed and/or built in a condition safe for pedestrians and others lawfully on the Premises;
- h. Failing to properly select, instruct and/or supervise their agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors in the proper maintenance and repair of the Premises;
- i. Failing to repair and/or replace the parking lot;
- j. Improper repair;
- k. Failing to remove the dangerous condition;
- 1. Failing to warn;
- m. Failing to inspect and maintain the Premises; and
- n. Allowing a dangerous and defective condition to exist on the Premises.
- 14. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing incident, and the negligence and carelessness of Defendant, CVS, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, sustained the injuries and suffered the damages described in paragraphs 8 through 11, *supra*.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, demands judgment against Defendant, CVS Pharmacy, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus interest, costs, and any other relief which this Honorable Court may deem just and fair.

<u>COUNT II - NEGLIGENCE</u> <u>PLAINTIFF, MARK LAWSON, v. DEFENDANT, PHILADELPHIA PA CVS, INC.</u>

- 15. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the averments of Paragraph 1 through 14 of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length.
- 16. The foregoing incident and all of the injuries and damages set forth herein sustained by Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, were the direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendant, Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc., as follows:
 - a. Failing to maintain the Premises in a safe condition;
 - b. Failing to take adequate precautions to assure that individuals lawfully on the Premises would not be subject to injury;
 - c. Failing to warn pedestrians and those lawfully on the Premises of the dangerous and defective condition existing on the Premises;
 - d. Failing to exercise due care to protect Plaintiff and others similarly situated from personal injuries caused by the dangerous and defective condition on the Premises;
 - e. Failing to properly and adequately inspect and supervise the Premises in order to locate and correct dangerous and defective conditions such as that which caused injury to Plaintiff;
 - f. Failing to correct the dangerous and defective condition of the Premises;
 - g. Failing to assure that the Premises were designed and/or built in a condition safe for pedestrians and others lawfully on the Premises;
 - h. Failing to properly select, instruct and/or supervise their agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors in the proper maintenance and repair of the Premises;
 - i. Failing to repair and/or replace the parking lot;

- j. Improper repair;
- k. Failing to remove the dangerous condition;
- 1. Failing to warn;
- m. Failing to inspect and maintain the Premises; and
- n. Allowing a dangerous and defective condition to exist on the Premises.
- 17. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing incident, and the negligence and carelessness of Defendant, Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc., Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, sustained the injuries and suffered the damages described in paragraphs 8 through 11, *supra*.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, demands judgment against Defendant, Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc., in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus interest, costs, and any other relief which this Honorable Court may deem just and fair.

<u>COUNT III - NEGLIGENCE</u> <u>PLAINTIFF, MARK LAWSON, v. DEFENDANT, PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST</u>

- 18. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the averments of Paragraph 1 through 17 of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length.
- 19. The foregoing incident and all of the injuries and damages set forth herein sustained by Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, were the direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust, as follows:
 - a. Failing to maintain the Premises in a safe condition;
 - b. Failing to take adequate precautions to assure that individuals lawfully on the Premises would not be subject to injury;
 - c. Failing to warn pedestrians and those lawfully on the Premises of the dangerous and defective condition existing on the Premises;
 - Failing to exercise due care to protect Plaintiff and others similarly situated from personal injuries caused by the dangerous and defective condition on the Premises;

- e. Failing to properly and adequately inspect and supervise the Premises in order to locate and correct dangerous and defective conditions such as that which caused injury to Plaintiff;
- f. Failing to correct the dangerous and defective condition of the Premises;
- g. Failing to assure that the Premises were designed and/or built in a condition safe for pedestrians and others lawfully on the Premises;
- h. Failing to properly select, instruct and/or supervise their agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors in the proper maintenance and repair of the Premises;
- i. Failing to repair and/or replace the parking lot;
- j. Improper repair;
- k. Failing to remove the dangerous condition;
- 1. Failing to warn;
- m. Failing to inspect and maintain the Premises; and
- n. Allowing a dangerous and defective condition to exist on the Premises.
- 20. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing incident, and the negligence and carelessness of Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, sustained the injuries and suffered the damages described in paragraphs 8 through 11, *supra*.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Mark Lawson, demands judgment against Defendant, Philadelphia PA Business Trust, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus interest, costs, and any other relief which this Honorable Court may deem just and fair.

SOLNICK & ASSOCIATES, LLC

BY: /s/ Jay L. Solnick

JAY L. SOLNICK, ESQUIRE

ALISA THAMMAVONG, ESQUIRE

Attorneys for Plaintiff

VERIFICATION

I, Jay L. Solnick, Esquire, hereby verify that I am counsel for the Plaintiff in the foregoing matter and that the statements made in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand the statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

/s/ Jay L. Solnick
JAY L. SOLNICK, ESQUIRE

Solnick & Associates, LLC 1448 Mundock Road Dresher, PA 19025 Attn: KS



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VASHINGTON, PA

ספגל אגלפ דמסס ספדד גדטל

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Woonsocket, RI 02895

S D D D S S

One CVS Drive

Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc.



EXHIBIT B

Corporations ▼ Search Business Entities (corpsearch.aspx) Search UCC Transactions (uccsearch.aspx) Forms ▼

Contact Corporations (http://www.dos.pa.gov/BusinessCharities/Pages/default.aspx)

Login (https://hub.business.pa.gov/login)

Search entity / Select entity / Order documents

Order Business Documents



	Date: 05/19/2021
Business Name History	
Name	Name Type
PHILADELPHIA PA CVS, INC.	Current Name

Business Entity Details Officers

Name	PHILADELPHIA PA CVS, INC.
Entity Number	2862631
Entity Type	Business Corporation
Status	Merged
Citizenship	Domestic
Entity Creation Date	02/23/1999
Effective Date	02/23/1999
State Of Inc	PA
Address	%CT Corporation System Philadelphia

Name	CAROL A DENALE
Title	TREASURER
Address	ONE CVS DRIVE WOONSOCKET RI 02895
Name	CAROL A DENALE
Title	VICEPRESIDENT
Address	ONE CVS DRIVE WOONSOCKET RI 02895
Name	THOMAS S MOFFATT
Title	SECRETARY
Address	ONE CVS DRIVE WOONSOCKET RI 02895
Name	ZENON P LANKOWSKY
Title	PRESIDENT
Address	ONE CVS DRIVE WOONSOCKET RI 02895

Case 2:21-cv-02460 Document 1 Filed 05/28/21 Page 29 of 34

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EXHIBIT C

MARK LAWSON.

Plaintiff.

No.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

٧.

CVS PHARMACY, INC. d/b/a CVS PHARMACY, PHILADELPHIA CVS, INC., and PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST,

Defendants.

AFFIDAVIT OF MELANIE K. ST ANGELO

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary, on this day personally appeared Melanie K. St Angelo, and being by me first duly sworn, on her oath, states as follows:

- 1. My name is Melanie K. St Angelo, I am over the age of twenty-one and have personal knowledge of the information set forth in this Affidavit. This Affidavit is submitted in support of Defendant, Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. (i/p/a CVS Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a CVS Pharmacy and Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc.) Petition for Removal.
 - 2. I am the Sr. Manager and Assistant Secretary of CVS Pharmacy, Inc.
- 3. At the time of the incident alleged in the Complaint, and presently, CVS Pharmacy, Inc. is a foreign corporation with its principal place of business located at One CVS Drive, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895.
- 4. Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. is a Pennsylvania limited liability company with a business address of 6344 Senton Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 5. CVS Pharmacy, Inc. is the sole managing member of Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C.

6. Philadelphia PA CVS, Inc. is an inactive corporation that merged with Pennsylvania CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C.

Joyce ME

Rhode

Sworn to before me this

٦,

NIE K. ST ANGEL

May the day of

Joyce Willis Notary Public State of Rhode Island Comm Exp. 10/14/2023

NOTARY PUBLIC

EXHIBIT D

Corporations ▼ Search Business Entities (corpsearch.aspx) Search UCC Transactions (uccsearch.aspx) Forms ▼

Contact Corporations (http://www.dos.pa.gov/BusinessCharities/Pages/default.aspx)

Login (https://hub.business.pa.gov/login)

Search entity / Select entity / Order documents

Order Business Documents



Date: 05/19/2021

Business Name History

Name	Name Type
PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST	Current Name

Business Entity Details Officers

Name	PHILADELPHIA PA BUSINESS TRUST
Entity Number	2768227
Entity Type	Business Corporation
Status	Active
Citizenship	Foreign
Entity Creation Date	07/30/1997
Effective Date	07/30/1997
State Of Inc	DE
Address	%CORPORATE CREATIONS NETWORK INC. Erie

Filed Documents

The information presented below is for your reference. To place an order you will need to log in. If you do not have a PENN File account, you may register for an account by clicking here (/Account/Register_account).

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